PATENT HPDNO: 10012383-1

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A server system comprising:
  - a plurality of printed circuit assemblies including at least one host processor card;
- a management card coupled to the plurality of printed circuit assemblies, the management card dedicated to monitoring and managing operation of the server system, including monitoring and managing on-line insertion and removal of the printed circuit assemblies.
- 2. The server system of claim 1, wherein the management card includes a management processor and a LAN switch, the LAN switch coupled to management connections of the at least one host processor card, and management connections of the management processor.
- 3. The server system of claim 1, and further comprising a backplane for connecting the plurality of printed circuit assemblies to the management card.
- 4. The server system of claim 3, wherein the at least one host processor card is configured to communicate status information to the management card via at least one I<sup>2</sup>C bus routed through the backplane.
- 5. The server system of claim 1, and further comprising:
  - at least one cooling fan;
  - at least one temperature sensor; and
- the management card configured to adjust the speed of the at least one cooling fan based on temperature data provided by the at least one temperature sensor.
- 6. The server system of claim 1, wherein the management card further comprises: a plurality of LEDs for providing server status information.

PATENT

- 7. The server system of claim 1, wherein the management card further comprises: a plurality of serial ports for communicating with the management card.
- 8. A method of managing a server system comprising:

providing a plurality of host processor cards for running customer operating systems and applications;

providing a dedicated management card that does not run customer operating systems and applications; and

monitoring and managing operation of the plurality of host processor cards with the dedicated management card, including monitoring and managing hot swapping of the host processor cards.

- 9. The method of claim 8, and further comprising: monitoring management LAN communications of the plurality of host processor cards with the management card.
- 10. The method of claim 8, and further comprising: transmitting status information from the plurality of host processor cards to the management card via at least one I<sup>2</sup>C bus.
- 11. The method of claim 8, and further comprising: monitoring the temperature of the server system with the management card; and adjusting the speed of at least one cooling fan with the management card based on temperature data.
- 12. The method of claim 8, and further comprising: providing status information on the management card via a plurality of LEDs.

13. The method of claim 8, and further comprising:
communicating with the management card via at least one of a plurality of serial

- 14. A management-dedicated server management card for a server system having a plurality of removable cards, the server management card comprising:
  - a memory for storing server management software; and

ports on the management card.

- a controller coupled to the plurality of removable cards for monitoring and managing operation of the server system based on the server management software, the controller providing hot-swap functionality for the plurality of removable cards.
- 15. The server management card of claim 14, wherein the server management card includes a LAN switch, the LAN switch coupled to the controller and management connections of at least one of the plurality of removable cards for monitoring management LAN communications.
- 16. The server management card of claim 14, and further comprising: at least one I<sup>2</sup>C bus link coupled to the controller for receiving status information from the plurality of removable cards.
- 17. The server management card of claim 14, and further comprising:
  an input for receiving server temperature information, the controller configured to
  adjust the speed of at least one server cooling fan based on received server temperature
  information.
- 18. The server management card of claim 14, and further comprising: a plurality of LEDs for providing server status information.
- 19. The server management card of claim 14, and further comprising:

PATENT HPDNO: 10012383-1

a plurality of serial ports for transmitting and receiving serial communications.